

A
TRVE AND BRIEFE RELATION OF THE BLOODY BATTLE OF
NIEVPORT in **FLANDERS**, fought betwixt Prince **MAVRICE**,
of happy memory, and **ALBERT** Archduke of **AUSTRIA**,
Upon the second of July 1600.
Sillo Noyo.

He Enemies forces in the yeere of our Lord 1600. being weake, & in a mu-
tinie, the States of the United Provinces seeing their affaires in disorder, took
this advantage, & resolution to make an offensive Warre in *Flanders*, as the
fittest place to annoy the Enemy most, & to secure their owne state, if they
could recover the walt Townes, which was the scope of their designe.

To this end, their Army was embarked in 2080. flatke ships, with purpose to have
landed at *Ostend*, but comming into *Zeeland*, & finding the wind contrary, resolved to
disimbarke their Armie upon the Coast of *Flanders*, by a Fort called *Philippine*, lyng vpon
the river of the *Scheld*, where wee ranne our Vessels at a high Water (which for the most
part were flat bottom'd) aground, so that the ebb falling, wee lay on dry land, & with
much ease and readinesse wee landed both our Horse and Foote.

Our Armie then being landed, it consisted of somer twelue thousand foote, and 3000.
Horse, which were divided into three *Tercias* commanded by three severall Chieffes. The
first by *Couint Ernest of Nassau*, The second by *Couint Solmes*. And the third by *Sir Fran-*
cis Vere, every one interchangeably taking their turnes every day: namely, the *Avantguard*
the *Battaile*, and the *Reere*.

The Avantguard.

The *Avantguard* was ordered thus, *Couint Lewes of Nassau*, brother vnto *Couint Ernest*, led
the *Avantguard* of the Horse, as bein g Lieutenant Generall, consisting of ten Cornets of
horse, namely, his owne troupe, the troupe of *Prince Maurice*, which were *Caraffiers*, com-
manded by Monsieur *Walraven of Gent*, *Couint Henry Frederick of Nassau* his Excies bro-
thers troupe, led by Captaine *Bernard*, all which made one division. The second division
was commanded by Monsieur *Marcelis Bacx* with his owne *Cornet*, & his Brother *Pauil*
Bacx, and Captaine *Sales* brought vp the Reere, with these marched three troupes of *Ca-*
rabines, namely *Conseliers*, *Peter Pany*, and *Battenburgh*.

To the *Avantguard* of Horse were ioyned these foote Companies, to wit, *Prince Mauri-*
ce his guard, commanded then by Captaine *Aa*: *Couint Hohenloes guard* led by his Lieute-
nant *Strydhorst*, & after these marched the Regiment of General *Francis Vere*, consisting
of 13 English Companies, his owne, Captaine *Taxless Sariant Major*, Capt. *Denis*: Capt.
Daniel Veres: Capt. *Honniewoods*: Capt. *Hammonds*: Capt. *Ogles*: Capt. *Tyrrell*: Capt. *Faire-*
faxes: *Sr Calistine Brookes*: Capt. *Fosters*: Capt. *Garnets*: and Capt. *Holcrofts*.

After these marched the Regiment of *Sr Horace Vere*: first his owne Company, then
Captaine Suttons, *Sr Thomas Knolles*, Capt. *Purtons*, Monsr *Cicils*, Monsr *Morgans*, Monsr
Meskercks, Capt. *Scoss*, Capt. *Vavoursours*, Capt. *de Gaines Hartwirsons*, and Capt. *Denbies*,
making of both these Regiments 24 Colours, in all accounted to be some 1600 English.

Vnto the *Avantguard* were likewise ioyned the *Frijons* commanded by their Lieute-
nant Coronell *Iaco Hottinga*: as his owne company, The Baron of *Sideniscoes*: The compa-
ny of *Iasper van Eussum*: Capt. *Michell Haghers*: Capt. *Groveſtines*: Capt. *Osheimes*: Capt.
Hans de Frie: Capt. *Zagemans*: Capt. *Quirin de Blanv*: Capt. *Edzard Groveſtines*: Capt.
John Kiefs: Capt. *Egbert Hovens*: Capt. *Holſteynes*: Capt. *Aſſuerus*: Capt. *Garras Schages junior*
Capt. *D. Aruſmas*: & Capt. *Riperdoeſ*: making in all 17 Companies, so that the *Avantguard*
consisted of forty foote Companies, over which *Sir Francis Vere* commanded in cheife,

The Battaile.

The *Battaile* was commanded by *Couint George Edward of Solmes*: as first, his owne
troupe of Horse, his brothers *Couint Fredericks of Solmes*, the troupe of *Ioſting Wierick Clau-*
sers: and Capt. *John Bacx*, which made the first division of Horse. In the second division
were these troupes following, as *Godrad de Bales*: *Sir Francis Veres*: commanded then by
Capt. *Pembroke*, and *Sir Edward Cicil*: making together ſeven Cornets.

Vnto

To these horse troupes were joyned these foote companies, the Wallon, or new Geux Regiment of Prince Frederick Henry de Nassau; (now his Highnesse) commanded by Sir Daniel Hertain Lord of Marques his Lieutenant Coronell, with which regiment Prince Henries own company Marched. Capt. de Bouts: Capt. Anthony Sautes: Capt. Francis Marleis Capt. Francis Mareschals: Capt. Philips de la Louis: Capt. Nimmeries: Capt. Jonas Durands: & Capt. Gabriel de Nouvelles: making together 9. companies, to these also were ioyned the fourre Swissers companies, to wit, Capt. Hans Krieks de Ballichom: Capt. Hans Sas van Vnderwalt: Capt. Hans Meyer of Zurich; and Capt. William de Pass.

The Battaille likewise consisted of two divisions of French: The first was commanded by Monsieur de Dommerville, Lieutenant Coronell to Monsieur de la Rose, in which were his owne Companie, Monsieur de Rogues, and Capt. du Saliz.

In the second division were the companies of Capt. Simendrie: Mareschals: Hamlets: Capt. Bruse de Cormers, led by his Lieutenant, who was shot before Albertus Fort. The Companies of Monsieur du Fort, de Formanteirs, de Verneville: & Du Pont Auberts: making together twelve Companies: In the midle whereof Prince Maurice was himselfe to give order every where, accompanied with his brother Prince Frederick Henry de Nassau: and divers other Lords: namely, John Adolph Duke of Holstein, John Ernest Prince of Anhalt, three Counts of Solmes, namely, Count Frederick, Count Albert Otho, and Count Henry William Solmes, Count de Colligny Lord of Chastillon, nephew to that famous Admirall of France, the Lord Gray, Sr Robert Drury, the Lord Iassius de Nassau, with many other brave Volun-teers & English gentlemen of quality, French, & Germans, who attended the Princes person the whole Battaille then consisted of 7 troupes of Horse, and 25 companies of foote.

The Reete.

The Reete was commanded by Mons. Oliver Temple, Lord of Corbeke, Sariant Maiour Generall, & consisted of three Cornets of Horse, namely, Capt. Wernard de Bois: Capt. Haweltons: and Monsieur Conteliers troupe, over which Monsieur Bois commanded.

There was in the Reete also three battalions of Foote, to wit, the Regiment of Count Ernest of Nassau, (who commanded this Tercia) his owne Company, Capt. Husemans, Capt. Nassaus: Capt. Imbizes: Capt. Cotwitz: Capt. Balthasars: Capt. Esumm, Capt. Pithans, The old company of Count Ernest: Capt. Crimwitz: Capt. Breeds: Lucas Neusars: and Capt. George Weckerlies: this made the first division, and consisted of 13 Colours.

In the second division were the Lord of Gisteler his company Coronell, The company of George Edward Count Solmes, Capt. Irclons: Capt. Frerburghs: Capt. Ammonvillers: Capt. Longfeld, Capt. Russies: and Capt. Flores de Winegarden.

In the third division, there was the Regiment of Colonel Huchtenbrooke his company Coronel, Monsieur Temples company, Capt. Marlin: Capt. Dederick de longs: Capt. Rayen-burghs: capt. John Loones: & capt. Calverts: making in all 3 troupes of Horse, & 26 foote companies, & thus the Armie was ordered into the Avantgard, the Battaille, & the Reete, the day wherein the Battell was fought.

The Archdukes Armie consisted of 19 Cornets of Horse, with his owne troupe, Commanded by Don Roderigo de Lafo, & were al Lanciers, but only one troupe of Harquebusiers, as namely, the Admirant of Arragon his troupe, Don Iuan de Bracamontos, Don Iuan de Silvas: Don Phillepoos de Arrelanos: Don Ferdinand de Guvaras: Don Guillielmos de Verdugos, il Conde Giacomo Belgiosos, il Cavelloro Vicentes: and Carolos de Sangros: all Lanciers: il Conte de Salines, Capitano Ryferbey: Capitano de Forests Curassiers, Michel de Teller: Iauan van Cepazes: Nicolas de Bher: and Capitaine Franasco de Royes to which were ioyned 600 horse more, that had mutined at Diest, making in all some 25 hundred Horsemen.

The Enemies Battalions of Foote consisted of three Spanish Regiments, under the command of Don Ieronimo de Monroy: Don Iasper de Sopenas, and Don Lewes de Villars Regiments. There were also two Italian Regiments, vnder the Conduct of Don Alphonso de Avillos. The two regiments of the Count of Bucquoy, as that of Burlottes: and Bestocks the Count de Bucquoy commanding the reete, divers other companies drawne out of the regiments of Count Frederick vander Berke: The Marquess of Varrabons, the Earle of Bartamonts, The Lord of Archicourt, Balansons, and others.

Their army consisted of some 15 thousand foot, and 25 hundred horse, besides their Mutiniers

Mutiniers, all old and experienced souldiers, and were also diuided into three Brigadoes, as the *Avantgard*, the *Battall*, and the *Rere*, as the two figures following here unto annexed shall Demonstrate.

Now before the Armies mett, it was consulted wherein the Armie should be first em- ployed, either in takeing the *Fort*, which the Ennemie held in the lowe, and broken grounds about *Ostend*, or in the seige of *Nieuport*: the latter being resolued vpon the States (who had all this while marched, and abode with the Armie) departed to *Ostend*, to take the *Fort Albertus*, and to open the passage betwene that Towne and *Nieuport*: Prince Maurice with the rest of the Armie, leaving the *Fort of Ouldenbourgh*, & the others, which the Ennemie had forsaken well garded, as behouefull (because without forcing them, the Ennemy could not come vnto vs, but with fetching a great compasse) marched by *Hemskerk*, towards a Fort called the *Damme*, lying vpon the River that goeth to *Nieuport*, but finding the Countrie weake, and Moorish, and not able to carry the weight of our Carriages, and Artillerie, returned by a small village not farre from *Hemskerk*, and lodged there, thence crossed through the Meddowes towards the sea side, filling many ditches, & laying bridges to passe over the waters, whereof that Countrie is full, and so with much adoe wee got to the *Downes* by the sea side, and encamped about a Canon shott from the *Fort Albertus*, which was before rendred vp to *Count Solmes*. Earely in the morning wee marched along the sea side towards *Nieuport*. And at the ebbe waded over the river on that side, which maketh the Haven of that Towne, and so encamped there, and spent two or three daies in quartering, and entrenching our selves in places of advantage, for our owne safetie, and the besieging of the Towne, laying a stone bridge over the narrowest of the Haven for our Carriages, and troupes to passe too and fro at all times, & as occasion required. The Archduke having vnderstood that his Excie was fast downe before *Nieuport* gathered a head, and marched with all expedition with his Armie towards the *Downes*, passing the very same waye, which his Excie did, that he might the sooner relieue *Nieuport*. In the meane time his Excie was advertized from those of *Ostend*, and *Ouldenbourg*, that the Ennemy with good troupes of horse and foote, were come and lodged neere the Fort, wherupon consulting, the opinions were diverse, most of them agreeing, that it was onely a *Bravado* made by *Ribes*, who as wee heard before had gottē vp in the land some 4000 men together neere vnto *Sluse*, to divert vs from our enterprize, and that then vpon our R'movall towards him, he would make his reteate to the *Sluce* againe. But Sr *Francis Vere* was of the opinion, that it was the grosse of their Armie, and how it was very needfull, without any delay, to march therwards with our Armie also, least the Fort, & the rest fell into the Ennemis hands, who might then come and lodge at our backs, & cut of our passage to *Ostend* to the extreame annoyance of our Armie: That in vsing diligence to prevent the Ennemie frō takeing these Forts, wee might at once block vp, & beleige those which the Ennemie held in the lowe & drown ned lands, being an *Enterprize* equall with that of *Nieuport*. While these things were thus a disputing that night came Messenger vpō Messenger to the Prince to give him to vnderstand, first that the Ennemie had Cannon & that those of the *Fort* were summoned in the Archdukes name & afterward it was yeelded to him vpō conditions. Thrice that night vpon general & false *alarums*, Sr *Francis Vere* was called vp from his rest, which confirmed him in his former opinion, that the Ennemie was comming towards vs, and that the Fort being yeelded into the Ennemis hands, it was needfull, that the whole Armie with all speede should returne over the water, to stop the Ennemy, from gayning the passage, our selues had made through the drownē land, and to possesse the same, which was the shortest, and the readiest waye the Ennemie had to the *Downes* and sea side. These reasons (of Sr *Francis Veres*) his Excie liked not, but resolving to foreflow the Ennemie, as much as possibly might bee, that hee might gaine the more time: & therefore the second of Iuly at the breake of the day he sent from the Armie before *Nieuport*, his Nephew & Cosen *Count Ernest of Nassau*, with two Regiments of foote, the one *Schots*, the other *Zealanders* with foure troupes of horse, making some 2000 footemen, & 500 horse, with some Ordnance & materialls, to entrench vpon the passage, vnto whome the States sent out also, according to his Excies order,

some companies out of the garrison of *Ostend*, and those which came out of the Forts of *Ouldenborg*, *Plopendale* and *Bredene*, to hinder the Ennemie from passing the Bridges, which laye over certaine waters vpon the waye, as you goe toward the Fort *Albertus*, the Prince saying he would followe, & second them with the rest of the Armie in due times.

But before they came thither, the Ennemie had seized vpon those Bridges, and having passed over them with the choise of his Armie, it was impossible for so small a number to hold vp & stopp the Ennemis passage towards the *Dowres*: the afore said Regiments being engaged in fight with the Ennemie, & finding themselves too weake, to resist any longer so puissant an Armie, after they had brauely defended themselves, and carried themselves like good Souldiers, were at last put to flight, the most lost falling then vpon the Scotch; as well vpon their chiefe, & Capitaines, as Gentlemen, and private Souldiers, who fought it out stoutly: so that there were slaine about 800. dead vpon the place, amongst the which, there were eleuen Captaines many Lieutenants and Officers. The Arch-duke having gott this Victorie, wrote to *Bruges* that he had overthrowne the *Avant-gard* of *Prince Maurice*, and that he was so farre engaged with the rest of his Armie, that they could not escape out of his hands: in so much, that this day they began to triumph at *Bruges*, and the adiacent Townes in ringing their bells, as though they had gaigned already the Victorie.

Now the newes of this deafeate put the Lords the States into a great perplexity, considering what a danger the countrie was in, if any misfortune should happen to our Armie which laye before *Nieuport*, and encamped on both sides of the Haven, the Souldiers being separated one from an other, which drove them into a great feare. And therefore being in such an extremite, when all humaine meanes failed them, they tooke their refuge to the Lord of Hosts by prayes and assembled themselves, and all their traine with diverse Officers and people of the Towne of *Ostend* into their chambers where their Minister *Vtenbogaert* made prayers vnto God for the preservation of the person of his Excie, the Lords, Chiefe and Commandours, which were with him, yea the whole Army, that God would be pleased to give them a happy successse.

The Archduke being encouraged with this advantage, and deafeate, which he gott so quickly over our men, marched in all haft towards *Nieuport*, imagining to finde his Excie and all his Army so amazed by this overthrow, that he might easely put our men to route. But God had his eye of providence vpon the State of these Countries, and the defense of his Church in them, giving his Excie such wisedome, that he commanded away all the shipping, & boates from *Nieuport* towards *Ostend*, & with all gave order that all his troupes should be ready to passe the Havē of *Nieuport* at a lowe water, to gett on the other side, with a couragious resolution, to make head against the Ennemy, & to give him battell, according to which his Excie went from troupe to troupe to animate and encourage his Souldiers. That seing they had the sea on the on side, and the Ennemis Armie on the other side betwixt them, and saw that there was now no meanes in the world to escape, but to fight it out and beate through their Armie: considering that his Excie reputation depended thereon, yea all their honours, their lives and the good of the countrie lay now all the stake, & that now they would carry themselves brauely & couragiouly, with assurance that God would give them a blessed issue. The like also did all the chiefe, Commanders & Capitaines to there Souldiers. Prince *Henry* (now his highnesse) did likewise encourage also his *Wallons*, or new *Geux*, being of his Regiment to doe the like.

The rest of the Armie was commanded to march to the water side by the break of day to passe over the Haven with the first ebbe, being then Sr Francis Veres his turne to have the *Avantgard*, which made him carefull not to be wanting in his duty, so as in due time his troupes were at the place appointed, and because the water was not yet passable, he went to his Excie to know his further pleasure, whome he found by the bridge with most of the chiefe & Officers of the Armie, where not longe after, newes was brought him, that the Ennemis Armie was passing the *Dowres*, and marching towards vs, wherevpon Sr Francis Veres advised his Excie that all possible speede must be vsed to passe the Ferrs be-

fore the Ennemy was possessed of the other side of the Haven. His Excie willed him in all things to doe as he saw cause, and calling to him Count Lodewijck of Nassau (who then commanded the Horse as Generall) badd him goe along with Sr Francis Vere, and follow his directions, so Sr Francis Vere left the Prince, and went to his troupes, and as soone as the tyde serued he passed his men, which stood there in thre Battalions. The Souldiers would have stripped themselves to have kept their cloathis drie, as Sr Francis Vere willed them when he crossed the haven first, but afterward thought it not expedient, the Ennemie being so neare at hand, and therefore he willed them to keepe their cloathis on, and wet to care for wetting them : seeing they should neede none that day or else haue better and dryer cloathis to sleepe in that night.

Count Lodewijck passed first with his ffe Coursis of Horse, whereof two of them were Turquessifiers, and advanced towards the Ennemie, and entartayned skirmish with two of the Ennemis troupes, and then followed all the rest, which were scarce gott over on the other side of the shire, but they saw the Ennemie stand in full Battaille, betweene them and Ossend: insomuch that if the Ennemie had but advanced, he might haue prevented his Excie from passing his foote over the haven. Now the Ennemy not knowing how many of our men were passed over the haven, because of the great dust, which arose and blinded their sight, made a halte a longe time by the sea shoare, which gaue his Excie time & leisuere to passe over the English & Frize Regiments, with his Excie gard, & Count Hobenloes, all commanded by Sr Francis Vere. Then followed the French Regiments, the Wallones, & Savoys, which made the Battaille as is said) commanded by Count George Eve, vurd of Solmes, and after them almost all the rest of the horse. The Regiment of Count Ernft, Gistelles & Hachienbrokes made the Reete. The Regiments of Gisteller, and Vien Brooke, which were vnder the Conduct of Count George Everard of Solmes, were left before the Towne of Newport, to block it vp, with charge to stand vpon their gards, and vpon his Excies first order, to be ready to passe over the bridge, which was made with boates, and plankes ouer the haven of Newport: how the Armie was disposed into the Vantgard, Battaille & Reete, as yow haue heard already. When the troupes of the Vantgard were passed Sr Francis Vere left the footemen standing ranged in their order, betwixt the Downes, or Sandhills and the sea, and with the horse he advanced towards the Ennemie, whome we discouerted, a parte of comming towards vs alonge the sea side, not to engage a skirmish, or fight, but to choose a fit place to attred them vs, which was now the onely advantage wee could by industrie gett of the Ennemie: for by situation of the Countrie, that skill and dexterity wee presumed to exceede our Ennemis in (which was the apt agile mo^{re} of our Battalions) was vitterlie taken from vs: for the space betwixt the sea, and the Sandhills, or Downes, was commandded by the Sandhills, which consisted of many heads, reated and contayning one an other, conteyning so much breddth in most places, that our troupes could not occupie the whole, and every where so confusedly packed together, so brokē, & sleepe, that our troupes could neither discouer what was don, a stonnes cast before them, nor aduance forward in any order to seconde one another if neede required. And on the oþer side of the Downes towards the firme land, if the whole breddth were not possessed, the Ennemy might passe to the Haven of Newport, where our bridge, and most of our shippynge yet lay on the dry ground, and so to spoyle and burne thentin our vitt. To prevent then all these inconveniences, Sr Francis Vere went to finde out a place, where the hills, and Downes stood in a manner divided, with a hollow bottome narrow and the hills higher to the sea side, & North, then towards the Iland, & South part, which ranne cleane thwart from the sea sauds to the Iland: the Downes being there also of no great breddth: so that wee might conveniently occupie the wth our front, & command the seashoare, and the waye that laye betwixt the lowe Iland, & the foote of the Downes at that place which was on the higher side of the bottome, Sr Francis Vere resolued to attred the Ennemy there, and therefore causynge his troupes to advance, drew from the whole Vantgard about a 1000 men, to wit 300 English, the Princes guard, & such other companies as vñually march with it 250 of the Frizes 300, which were musketiers, two troupes consisting of shot, and pikes, the English and 30 of his Excies guard they la-

ced on the topp of the hill that lay more advanced then the rest, which being steepe, and sandie was not easely to be encountred, & in the topp so hollowe, that the men laye covered from the hills on the other side, & might shoothe from it, as from a Bulwarke.

Iust behinde this hill some 100 paces frō it, was another farre more higher, on the toppe, whereof Sr *Francis Vere* placed 200 men of the troupe of the gard, in which also (with a litle labour of the Souldiers,) they laye in a good covert, these two hills ioyned together with a ridge somewhat lower then the foremost hill, which endwaies laye East, and West, and broadwaies looked towards the South, and Inlands, and commaunded all the ground passable, on the outside, steepe, loose, & sandie & ill to be encountred, wthin the hollow he placed 500 Musketiers, giving charge to the Officers to bestowe their shott onely to the Southwards, when time should serue, which was directly on the right side, and flankes as wee then stood turned towards the Ennemie. Betwixt these two hills on the left hand orflanke, which looked towards the sea, Sr *Francis Vere* placed 700 men in covert places for that purpose to be neere the sea sand, that with ease, and good order in an instant, they might breake out into two or foure troopes all which were English.

The Ennemie ranged their forces to the Northwards, directly on our left flanke, & so they aduentured to passe by vs to the other troupes, with intent to leauem them in his eye more Easterly vpō the sands, then on the innermost of the two hills, which Sr *Francis Vere* perceiving, ranged in a Front (with a space betwixt them) the other two troupes of the English. And a pretty distance behinde them, more to the sea-wards ordered the *Frizons* in fourte *Battallions*, two in front with a space to receiuē betwixt them one of the other *Battallions*, that stood behinde them. And the files & intervals behinde the troupes, as close one to another as conveniently might bee, to leauem the more space for the ranging of the other *Battallions* with a compitent distance betweene each division : so that one troupe might not shaddow an other, but that all of them might be in the Ennemis eye in an instant: infomuch that the *Avantgard* tooke vp about one third part of the Downes, leaving the rest to be manned by the other troupes, as occasion should require, & on the left hand & the outermost towards the sea more advanced, were the horsemen placed. This worke was scarce done, when as his Ex^{cic} Prince *Maurice* with the rest of the chiefs, & Commandours of the Armie came to the head of Sr *Francis Veres* troupes, where his Ex^{cic} in the hearing of many putt it in deliberation, whether he should advance towards the Ennemie with his Armie, or attend their comming. Those that spake (as most men in those causes will not seeme scarefull) councelled him to march forwards: for they thought it would daunte the Ennemie much, & make the Victorie more easie, whereas in attending him, he would gather courage out of an opinion of our feare by taking the opportunity of our flaye, to fortifie vpon our passage to *Ostend*, & so cut of our victuals & retreat. Hereupon, Sr *Francis Vere* alledged, that their Armie having bene gathered vp in hast, & brought into a Countrie, where they intended noe such warre, could neither haue provisōs of victuals with it, nor any *Magazines* in those parts to furnish them therewith, nor any store in that naked Countrie in the latter end of a yare could be expected: so that there was noe feare, that they should seile themselues there, to starue vs, who had store of victuals in our shipping, & the sea open to supply vs with all sailing windes, with the vaine courage they should gett by our supposed feare, after a longe march, & comming vpon vs downe those sandie steepe-hils in the extremity of heate would be wearied, & spent before they could come vnto vs, & then finding vs fresh & lytie, ready to receiuē them in the strength of our advantage, in all reason it would turne to their greater confusion & terror. They persisted (in their opinion) & as it were with one voice oppossed it: so as in the end (Sr *Francis Vere*) was moved to saie, that all the world could not make him to change his opinion: His Ex^{cic} was pleased to like of it, resolving not to passe any further towards the Ennemie, & for the ordering of things reposeth so much trust in Sr *Francis Vere*, that he beleueed they should be well done, without viewing the places, or examining the reason of his doings. But his Ex^{cic} returned to give order, & dispose of the rest of the Armie, which as the water ebbed, his Ex^{cic} enlarged to the Seawards, next the which the Horsemen were placed, & sixe peeces of Ordinance advanced, planted in the head of the *Avantgard*, having the advantage both of the winde, & the Sunne on our side, & gave order to Mons *Wormont*, & Mons *Duvenvord*, that they from our men of warr, should giue fire with their Ordnance vpon the Ennemis *Battallions*, that stood vpon the strand. In this order wee stayed, & the Ennemie

(though stil in our sight) moved not forwards for the space of two howers, & then (rather turning from vs thē advancing) they crossed the *Downes*, & rested there two howers at the foote of the lland, which confirmed their opinions, that he would lodge there. But wee found reasons to the contrarie out of their proceedings to keepe vs from wavering: for it was probable, that the Ennemie was harryed out, & tyred with that nights march & daies travell. And seing wee were passed the Haven of *Nieuwpoort* (to haue hindred, or prevented vs, was the greatest cause of his hast) whilst also he saw vs stirring, & ordering our troupes he might hope, that wee that were fresh, now passed & engaged in fight, would advance the rather, to have the helpe of our troupes which were with *Couint Ernest*, if perchance he were retyred to *Ostend*, towards which the neerer wee were to fight to that place, it might be of more advantage vnto vs, or else if wee had heard of their defeate, then wee might be drawne on to revenge. But when he sawe that wee stood & held our place, not moving out of the hope, that they were not provided to make any longe staye, for the reasons before mentioned, & migh^t resolute to refresh themselues a lile & then to advance towards vs: seing that side was for that purpose more advantagious, then the bare sea sands & whil^e wee considered, that they made a halt to rest their foote men (which were all ould exercis^d Souldiers, & to that daye vinfoiled in the feild) they would attend rather the growing of the tyde, which was then at the lowest ebb, that the scopes of the sand might be lesse spacion^s & seruisable for Horsemen. Now about halfe floude, they crossed the *Downes* againe to the seasands, & marched forwards, sending some light horsemen farre before the troupes to discover, one of which (as wee supposed) suffred himselfe to be takē, who brought newes to his Excie, & tould him alone that *Couint Ernest* was defeated, and that he would presently giue him bataile, augmenting the number, bra verie, & resolutiōs of their me. The losse of our men being vnderstood before, wee were carefull to haue few present at the heareing of this prisoners report, whose mouth being stopped by the Princes order, not with stading they hearing it bewrayed it, both in word & countenāce to the souldiers

The Ennemie advancing neerer, & neerer their Horsemen came in the head of their troupes in a compitent distance, to haue bene drawne to a fight, Sr *Francis Vere* would willingly haue advanced the Horsemen of our *Vauntgard* neere vnto them, & with some choise & well mounted men, haue beaten in their *Carabines* & shirmishers to their grosse, with purpose if they had bene over charged againe to haue retyred in hast, with a lett *A-vantgard* of Horse, betwixt the sea & the *Vauntgard* offoote, & having drawne them from their foote vnder the mercy of our Ordināce would haue engaged the rest of our horse, to haue charged, & followed them resolutely. This advise liked not to the young noblemen who was not well pleased with the power, which his Excie had given to Sr *Francis Vere* over this charge, & therefore was not by him putt in execution, who choose rather as the Ennemie advanced leisurely: to reteate likewise towards our foote. This councill of his takeing noe better effect, & the Horsemen nowe comming within the reach of our Cannon, Sr *Francis Vere* made the motion to haue them discharged, which was liked, & so well spent, that wee made the scatter their troupes, in somedisorder, & fly for safety, which had doubtlesse given vs the victorie, without any more adoe, if our Horsemen had bene ready, & willing to haue taken the advantage of this occasion: Their foote men out of our reach kept on their way alongst the lands, & the sonet to require vs, advanced their Ordinance a good distance before them, and shott roundly at vs, and did some hurt. The water now growing very high, wee & they were both forced to strengthen our *Front*, & the Ennemie of purpose, as aforesaid was driuen to fight vpon Sr *Francis Veres* advantage, which he tooke with his foote, in drawing them into the *Downes*, where all our Horse stood with our *Reere*, herewpon our *Avauntgard* altring order, our *Battaile*, and *Reere* passed into the *Downes*, & in the same distance backwards, as they had before raunged: themselues vpon the land on the left hand, so as the front of our three bodies of foote, filled the breth of the *Downes*, not in any large front, but in the reere one of another, as the narrownesse of the passage enforced the where Sr *Francis Vere* found a fitt place, on the topp of a hill, fro whence the greene waye whiche lay on the greene side of the *Downes*, might be commāded by our ordnance, vpon the which hill (by his Excies order) two demy-Canons were presently mounted.

The Ennemy drawing very neere, then Sr *Francis Vere* tould the Prince it was nowe time for him to goe to his charge, and asked his Excie, if he would command him any

further service, he said hoc, but to doe as he saw cause, willing vs the chieffes that flood about him, to advise him in what part of the Armie he should be personnally, wherevnto we all answered, that for many reasons, he was to keepe in the Recre, all which his Excie yeelded to. And so Sr *Francois Vere* takeing his leue of the Prince, he went into the head of the *Avantgard*, and after he had viewed the readinesse, and order of the severall troupes, the Ennemy now appearing at hand, that he might the better discouer their proceedings, and for the readiest execution of his commandments vpon all occasions Sr *François Vere* after he had encouraged his men in abyding the first brunte, tooke his place in the topp of the foremost hill before mentioned, where he resolute to attend the issue of that daies seruice, aswell for the advantage of the ground he had chosen there to stand upon his defense, as also because it was an even ground, where he might stirre from place to place (as is vsually and necessarily) for the executing, and performing the duty of a Captaine, where the Countrie lying open and plaine, he should not onely haue the sight of the Ennemie (vpon whose motions in such cases the Councill of execution depend) but also the view of his troupes, and they of him, which might haue caused many unreasonable, and confused Commaunds, if it had bene otherwise.

The Ennemis *forlome hope* of *Haquebusiers*, having gotten vp, to the topp of the hills, and places of most advantage on the other side of the bottome before mentioned, began to shooe from thence at vs, whilst our *Avantgard* approched, who now growing neere at hand, fift hundred *Spaynards Pikes*, and short mingled without Ensignes, or precise order gaue on vpon the place where Sr *François Vere* stood and very stoutly for the space of a greate halfe hower, labouring to enter, and force it, but he succoured it with more store of shott from the topps of the hills. The grosse of their *Avantgard* standing in some covert from the short, which flew from Sr *François Veres* troupes on the other side of the bottome. In the meane time, the *Vauntgard* of the Ennemis horse advanced alonge the greeneway so often mentioned, betwixt the hills & the Downes towards our horse, that stood more backwards vpō the flanks of our Battell, whervpon our two peeces of Ordnance were discharged from the topp of the hill to good effect, and well spent, and when they came neere and thwart our right flank, the 300 Frizons Muskettiers, who (as is said) before were onely desired to bestowe their shott that way, did their parts, and soughled the Ennemis vpon the first proffer of a charge.

For the Prince seeing the Ennemis horse advance, commanded presently Count *Lodwick* to charge them, namely, with his Excies owne troupe, Prince *Henries* and Count *Lochnicks*, who being seconded by these Horse Captaines *Martelis Backx*, *Pauw Backx*, and *Monsieur La Sarte* their troupes, (as you maye see in the figure) brake the Ennemis horse, and putt them to a disorderly retreat. After this the Battell began on all sides, and the Ordnance from both sides played furiously one vpon an other. The fight from the first beginning to the end of the Battaille continewed, not onely in the Downes, but also vpon the shire of the Downes, and in the bottome on the other side of them with diverse charges. And therefore his Excie diuided his men into small troupes and divisions, that he might bring the more men to fight at a time, and to charge the Ennemie when occasion offred it selfe.

The fight growing hotter & hotter Sr *François Vere* giving two Regiments of *Spaynards* their bellic fulls, namely *Don Lewes de Villars*, and *Don Ieronimos de Moroy*, beating their Muskettiers to a retreat. The Ennemie seeing that advanced boith his Battell and his Recre, to bring them likewise to fight. His Excie perceiving our men thus engaged in the fight, caused also our Battell to advance, & gaue order to Count *George Everard of Solmes*, to lead it on, who with three French divisions of Muskettiers charged two Regiments of Spaynards and Italiens. The French Officers that led them on were these Captaines *Da Pay*, Captain *Du Bruil*, Monsieur *La Note* his Lieutenant, Captain *Pommardie*, Monsieur *Dommerville* his Lieutenant, Capt. *Vander Burch*, Monsieur *Da Fort* Lieutenant. The most of these came to handie blowes in the Downes, being the first charge which the French made.

After this first charge of the Battell, these Horse Captaines, also namely *Contillier*, *Peter Pauw*, and *Barenburgh* charged the Ennemis Foote, the Prince sending Count *Lodvoijk* with sixe troupes of Curassiers to second them, being accompanied with Count *Federick* swaen and Count *Edzard* Swaen, and Count *Wolmar* his sonnes, and Count *Frederick* Vlaert, his sonnes blouward. The Ennemis Foote were alwaies in the battell, and the French

ryck of Solmes. His Exc^e gaue order againe that Count George Edward of Solmes should giue a second charge with the French, who had the *Avantgard* of our Battell, who were diuided into two troupes, that on the right hand, was led on by Monsieur Dommerville Lieutenant Coronell, and that on the left hand by Captaine Sau. This was the seconde charge the French made, who fought with a Battallion of the Ennemis Pikes, consisting of two Regiments, the one was a Spanish Regiment commaunded by Don Alphonzo d'Alvalos, the other an Italian conduced by Jasper Sapena Maefro del Campo.

Count George Everard of Solmes retyng with these French, was once more commauded by the Prince to leade on Prince Henry of Nassau his brothers the Walloons Regiment, called the new *Ceux*, commauded then by his Lieutenant Coronell Monsieur Martin, the Swisser Regiment also commauded by Hans Krick went on with them, and fought stoutly doeing good seruice. These two Regiments encountred, and fought against Bassotte, & the Count de Bucquoy, who commauded the Ennemis *Recreguard*, which consisted of three Walloon Regiments, and some Irish Companies. His Exc^e likewise commauded Monsieur de Gistelles, being of our *Arreregarde* to goe on with his Regiment, as also the Regiments of Coronell Huchtenbrooke, & that of Count Erast, commauded by Monsieur Hayman his Lieutenant Coronell with these hys Regiments, Count George Everard Solmes charged the Ennemic as above said. This fight lasted about three howers longe, the Victorie being doubtful on both sides, sometimes the one side winning, and otherwhiles the other side loosing ground. The Princes Ho^te Sir charging the Ennemic putt them often to the worst of it, & our ho^te had continuall the advantage vpon them, driving some of them to a retreate as farre as Newport. The Ennemis foote fought with more advantage vpon the Downes then ours, & made the Princes men to quit on downe after an other: so that our Ordinance was in hazard of loosing.

To returne againe to our *Avantgard*, Sr Francis Vere gaue order that a hundred men should be sent frō the foremost troupes, which he had layd (as is aforesaid) in the Downes, to hane given on vpon the left flanke of the Ennemic, if they had attempted to passe by vs on the Sand, and as covertly as they could to approach and fall on, vpon the right flanke of those that were in fight with him, when they were come vp, and at hand neare the Ennemic, he sen secretly by the hills (where there was a hollow discent) some sixty men more to charge them in their front, which amazed the Ennemic much, and made them runaway, our men following them charged and killed them, till they had passed the bottome, and came to their glosse, from which they disbandied 500 Spaynards more (the like number as before) who followed out men, and seized vpon some heights that were in the bottome some what neare vnto vs. Their Pikes standing vnder the shaddow of the hills, they played with their shott from the topp of them vpon our disbanded and skirmishing men. Sr Francis Vere to drue them from thence, being loath they should gaine ground vpon him, sent more men out of the same by-waies, from whence he had drawne the first besfort mentioned, giving then onely this order, to make good that place. This was a bloodie morsell, which wee strove for: For whilst our men, and theirs were not covered with the hanging of the hills, as they advanced, or wee chased, so they lay open to the shott, not onely of those that were possessed of those little Hills, but of the higher also who powred in a great tempest of shott amongst them: so as these Souldiers which Sr Francis Vere had sen, hasted for their safetie to get the heath side of the hills. The Ennemic also for the like reason abode their comming with the like resolution, and so in a moment as the hills were rounde and mountable, our men can to handie blowes vpon the whole *dem^{ys} Circle* of them, with much slaughter on both sides: but in the end the Ennemic was forced to retire. In the meane while, the Ennemis Battaille of foote were come vp to the grosse of their *Avantgard*, which as it had taken the right hand of the Downes, so the battaille with some distances betwixt them (though in an even front) having bene well gauld and beaten with our shott, from the topp of the hills, stood all in good covert as the place would afford, frō whence they sent fresh men to beate ours from those grounds of advantage in the bottome. As our men began to give back Sr Francis Vere sent new supplies to make good that place in the bottome: sometimes getting otherwiles loosing

of ground. The fight was still mainteyned with fresh supplies on both sides, so that Sr *Francis Vere* perceiued (though with the losse of men) yet with this advantage of ground he did not onely beate vpon the *grosse* of the Ennemie, but also gaue fire vpon their loose fighting men, which made the losse farre greater on the Ennemis side, his maine dessigne being so, as to engage their whole force vpon his handfull of men, made him employ his men sparingly, and by pecece meale of purpose, to spend and wast the Ennemie (that they should not be able to abide the sight of our other troupes) when they advanced (as is said) the Horsemen of the Ennemis *Battaile*, and ours encoutered together, but somewhat more advanced towards the Ennemie. Our men having comfort with the first successe our *Frixon Muskettiers* before mentioned, could not so well fauour our men, but our Horsemen being putt to a retreate, the Ennemie persuing them, yet were so saluted by our men that they were driven back. The Ennemis *Reerward* now coming vp, with the two other boddies (for so Sr *Francis Vere* termed them, because their coullours remayned together) most of their men being drawne from them and engaged in fight, they attending their Ensignes, advanced boldly on the left hand of their *Battaile*, and spreading the brede of the Downes, they stood as it were to Sr *Francis Vere* his troupes, rather on the corner of his right flanke, then a Front, and so fronted directly vpon his *Excies Battaile & Arregard*, some Muskett shott behinde Sr *Francis Veres* troupes, towards which it seemed they intended to advance first, wee gaue fire to them, as much as wee could from the hills: but when they began to open vpon the *Frixon Muskettiers*, who (as is said before) were onely to bestow their shott on our right side, & till that time had done noe seruice, but against their horse, the *Frisons* gauled the Ennemie exceedingly, which made the stopp suddenly as amazed or a shamed to giue back, seing none to chaze them in a bottome of so small a covert. Herevpon they sent out some *shirmushers* amongst the Southermost parts of the Downes: Against which also some loose men were sent from our other bodies: but our Muskettiers, which gave fire vpon them standing, & shott without feare from their rests gauled them most of all. The Horsemen of the *Reerards* on both sides shewed themselves, and some bickering was betwixt them, but the Ennemis Horse retyred out of the footemens reach. This was a strange, and an vnusuall fight: For wheras commonly in a *Battaile* the successe of the foote depended most on that of the Horse: Here it was cleane contrarie, for so long as the foote held the place good, the Horse could not be beaten out of the feild (though as it fell out) they might be chazed to them.

All this while the fight without intermission continued hoter and hoter, betwixt the other two troupes of the Ennemie, and Sr *Francis Vere* his men, each sending fresh supplies, as occasion required to maintaine the fight, so that now the whole troupes of the English came to handie blowes in the aforesaid bottome, saving some few that were placed on the hills, & on the Ennemis side few were idle. Now was the time which Sr *Francis Vere* saw, to giue the Ennemie a deadly blowe his *grosse* being disbandied, aswell in occupying places of the heath, as takeing advantages to annoy vs, by those that were sent to dispute the places in question, for their onely strength consisted in their loose men, which a few Horse charging on a sudden in the bottome, would then haue putt them to flight, and being followed *pellmell* with our foote, they could neuer haue bin reliued, nor gathered themselues together againe. On the other side, Sr *Francis Vere* knew well (without further succour) their numbers would wearie, and eat out his men in the end. And therefore at once he sent to the *Frizon* Foote-men, that were of the *Avantgard* to advance, and withall to his *Excie* to give him to understand how things stod, desiring to send him part of the Horse of the Battell to second him. And seing the Ennemie pressed & gayned ground vpon his men, he sent againe messenger vpō messenger (for men & none coming he imputeth it to the slacknesse & neglect of the messengers.) In the interim to give his men the more encouragement, he went himselfe into the bottome amongst them, where ryding vp & Downe, he did in their eyes, and with much adoe entertained fight with the though the Ennemie encroached and gott ground vpon him. At his first comming into the bottome he was shott through his legge, and a quarter of an hower after, he gott another shott through the thigh of the same legge, which he neuer complained of, nor so much as thought vpon a *Chirurgian*, for he knew if he left that place his men would q-

stantly quailed, he therefore choose rather (not being used to have his troupes foiled) to try the uttermost cast, and not to show them the way to flee, hoping still for the coming of the Frizzons, and the Horse which he had sent for, but hast was so small, that his men being Overlayd with numbers they forsooke the place, notwithstanding he did his best endeavour to haue stayed them, hasting along the Sands to our Cannon, & the Ennemie following them hard, he was forced seing them all goe to retreate he with the last came of easely and vnewillingly (God knoweth) & as he went his Horse fell dead vnder & vpon him, having neither Officers, Gentlemen, or servants about him to giue him any helpe, Sr Robert Drurie by chance came, and a Gentleman a servant of his called Higham (and Sr John Ogle) drew him from vnder his Horse, & sett him vp behinde his Master, whiche helpe came very seasonable for him, the Ennemie being so neare at hand, when he fell, and so by this meanes he was sau'd out of their clutches, from thence he rode to our Ordnance, where finding his brother Sr Horace Vere, & most of the Officers that came thether with some 300 foote, he made them stand from before the mouth of the Ordnance, (whiche were laden with Musket Bullets) and willed the Cannoniers to discharge vpon the Ennemie, which swarmed now vpō the Sand, the Canon being discharged made a great slaughter and latie amone the Ennemis Horse and Foote.

At the same instant his Excie sent two Cornets of Horse to him, natiuely, his owne comaued by Captaine Ball, and Generall Vere his owne troupe comauunded by his Captaine Pembroke, who comming thither, he willed them to giue them a charge, and withall gaue order to his brother Sr Horace Vere to advance with his foote, and send the Ennemy packing. This small number of Horse and foote gathered together on a suddaine, gaue a great charge: for the Ennemie in hope of victorie followed vs close, and being vpon the Sands, where horse might come to serue, they were soone routed, & cutt in peeces, therest saved themselves by flight, as they could in the Downes. Our men both Horse and Foote followed them close at the heele. Their Battailles where their Ensignes remayned, began then to stirre, & rouse vp themselues, rather for their defense, then to revenge their fellows for they advanced not a whit. Our men from the topp of the hills (who had kept their places from the beginning) had by this meanes a faire marke to shooe at powred whole volleys of shott vpon them. Our English Officers and Souldiers on all hahds, tooke new courage & came vp to fight, and their battalions being very small, & thinne, by reason of the men that had bin sent from thē to maintayn the fight, especially their shott (which in these vneuen places were of most seruice) were well pelted with our shott. Our men then pressing hard vpō thē made thē giue back: His Excie thē (seing the Victorie inclyning on our side) caused the Battaille to advance, and his Horsemen to make a charge vpon the Ennemis. Vpon which sight the Ennemie (without attending any more blowes) was roueted, and chased out of the feild. In the last charge Sr Francis Vere followed not: for seing the successe vpon the Sands, & knowing that his directions in the prosecution of the Victorie would be executed, he easely gesst that the workes of that day were at an end, & therefore began to take care, and provide for himself, who all this while having bin vndressed, the blood leakeing from him at foure holes, together with a dangerous disease that had held him longe made him extreame weake and faint.

Our men followed the execution hard, even into the Moorish grounds, as farre as the Damme, slew many of the Ennemy, and tooke a great many prisonners, among the rest in the first charge Captaine Ball, tooke Jasper Sapena before mentioned prisonner, and one of Generall Veres Companie tooke Don Lewes de Villari Maistro del Campo prisoner. The battell lasted aboue three howers in suspence, with the effusion of much bloode on both sides, sometimes the one side, otherwhiles on the other gayning, or loosing of ground. The Archduke himself escaped very narrowly, loosing in this battle aswell slaine, as prisonners the most part of the Chieftaines, and Captaines of his Armie, and the Principall, Lords, Nobles, and Seruants of his Court, as these prisoners. Don Francisco de Mendoza, Admirant of Arragon, Count Solvres, Don Lewes de Villars Coronell. Don Lewes d'Avilla. Don Petro De Mendoza. Count Charles Rezin his Highnesse page, Doctor Andrew his Highnesse Physician. Don Jasper Maragon. 35. Horse and Foote Companies, Lieutenants

Lieutenants, Sariants, Dons, & Willeroes, and others of note, to the number of 309, likewise his Excie gott eight peeces of Ordinance & the two wee had lost in the morning, most of their Ammunition, and Baggage, the furnitnre belonging to his highnesse Chamber, and Cabinet, his seale of arms, a hundred and sixe colours besides some Cornets. There were slaine of the Archdukes side dead vpon the place where the Battle was fought some five thousand, besides those that were slaine vpon the execution & dyed afterward vpon their hurts, the greatest blow falling vpon the Spaynards, and Italiens, who ventred most, & were flesched with the morning Victorie. His Excie with those that were lost in the morning had slaine betweene two and three thousand, whereof the greatest losse fell vpon the English, having some 800 of them slaine & hurt. Seuen English Captaines were slaine in the feild, Captaine Yaxely, Hunniwood, Tyrrell, Duxborow, Pirton, & Woodward, S^r Francis Vere himself & all the rest of the Captaines (but two) hurt, and the most part of the inferiour Officers either slaine or hurt. There were also three of our horse Captaines slaine, three French Captaines a Walloon Captaine, & a Dutch Captaine, besides diuers Lieutenants, Ensignes, & Sariants.

Night comming on, his Excie marched with his Victorious Armie to the Church of Weßend, where he quartered that night, the Admirant of Arragon, and some others of their Commanders being at supper with the Prince (because the Ennemie had bragged heretofore) that our men were good Spade-men, but durst not fight a sett battell in the feild, asked the Admirant, and some of the Spanish Dons, & Commandadours, what they thought now of our Fresh-water Souldiers & whether they had not proued themselves in this daies actio as good sword-men, as spade-mē, whereat the Admirant & the Dons smiled, but the Admirant amonge other Grave & wise speeches which came frō him, complayned much that their owne Horse had played the lades, and had not done their best endeavour, whicheif they had done, their foote which charged brauely, might haue become master of our Ordnance, Commanding Prince Maurice much (of blessed memorie) that he had managed and husbanded the liues of his men so sparingly, against so great an Armie of ould beaten Souldiers, wheareas they brought their men to fight by Phalenges & grosse bodies, which was the cause that our men brooke and routing them it breed such a confusion which caused their overthrow, and thus much briefly of the Battell of Nieuport, fought Anno 1600.

